

THE STAR'S WORKING COMPUTING & HIGH TECH NO

COMPUTER COMPANIES

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IBM enter the clone market: The Ambra

● IBM HAVE finally decided to enter the personal computer market with a new product which is a PC clone. IBM have done so through a subsidiary company called Individual Computer Products International.

For years, IBM watched its market share shrink to the advantage of other PC manufacturers, especially Asian competitors. IBM has made its entry into this market hoping that this move might boost its sales.

This new series of machines is going to be called "Ambra", and prices are expected to start at around £899 for the 386x model including three expansion slots, 2 MB RAM with a hard disk drive of 40 MB and a VGA color monitor.

The price may go up to £1399 for a machine with five expansion slots, 4 MB RAM, 80 MB hard disk and a super VGA color monitor. These prices reflect IBM's intentions to target big companies, since other clones with similar specifications are selling for less like the Elonex PC at £905.

As for operating systems, IBM have chosen to supply this machine with MS-DOS 5.0, Windows 3.1 and a bundle of applications such as Microsoft Works. None of the components include any sign or logo to indicate that IBM had anything to do with the Ambra. Another special thing about the Ambra series is that it doesn't use Intel microprocessors, rather an AMD processor lies at the heart of these machines.

This is strange, since IBM actually have an agreement with Intel to set up a joint research center and since Intel are currently waging a legal battle against AMD.

So does this mean that IBM have finally accepted the Taiwanese triumph?

From the look of it, IBM is after a piece of the cake in the clone market. Entering a market which it was never in before should be something to look out for. Compaq Computers Inc. are also releasing new clones.

This market should offer such companies a chance to compete in the price wars in the international computer industry, all we can do is to wait and see.

Al Alamiyah presents Electronic Mail

● ELECTRONIC MAIL is a new feature offered by Al Alamiyah to Arabic language computer users. Electronic Mail with Sound for Word Processor 2 is a program with full capabilities to exchange files among terminals in a Local Area Network (LAN). It can be used with all Sakhr Word Processor 2 programs including Al-Moharer, Al-Kateb, Al-Ustaz and The Complete Set.

The program's most interesting feature is its support for the Sound Blaster card or others that are compatible, enabling the user to record audio messages just like any other text message and to send them through electronic mail.

One or a number of messages can be sent to one or a number of computers. Hidden messages can also be sent, which can only be read by a certain recipient including drawings or illustrations. The user is offered a list of messages from which to choose.

Building being a first in the Arabic word processing market, the program should open new horizons in communications for Arabic language users. It is also expected to strengthen Sakhr word processor 2 in Arab companies that use Local Area Networks (LANs), coupled with the ability to exchange messages in the Arabic language.

In defense of the Amiga

THE COMMODORE Amiga is quite a popular machine in Jordan, especially amongst teenagers who think it's tops for computer games. This, however, seems to be the problem. The Amiga has been suffering from lots of criticism at the hands of the "serious computer press" in the last couple of months. Accusations of being "just a games machine" and that it is incapable of "meeting the needs of mainstream computer buyers" have been all over American computer publications. Some writers are even debating the fate of a machine which they thought would fade away a couple of years ago. That's quite strange, seeing as it holds the number two position in Europe. There are around one million Amigas in the US alone and some 3 million around the world. You can't ignore such a large user base.

Commodore recently launched a new machine in its Amiga line of personal computers. The top-of-the-line Amiga 4000 is a \$4,400 machine, fully outfitted for multimedia work. The press received the machine with very biased reviews. Philip Robinson, a prominent writer, launched an attack on the Amiga saying that "the Amiga is dead". Later, he apologized for any misinterpretations of his article.

However, Robinson still thinks that the machine is unlikely to meet the needs of most US PC buyers due to poor support from Commodore. This is actually true. Commodore have never understood the potential of the Amiga. The machine was lacking in documentation from day one, it has a slow disk drive, unclear error messages and so on. This didn't help the Amiga in its rivalry with the Macintosh as a low-cost multi-media machine.

According to some reports, there's a new Amiga. The Amiga 3000T includes a new operating system which makes up for a few past mistakes. This machine should also be able to directly read Dos files. Maybe if the Amiga joined the growing ranks of our PC-run computer civilization, such critics would be happy.

In England, the Amiga is the only popular home computer amongst a bunch of games consoles. Isn't it good to know that some of the people in the next technology generation are computer owners rather than Sega or Nintendo games lunatics?

Some of these Amiga-owning teenagers represent people generally interested in computers and not only games, and who are expected later to move on to more practical computer uses. Present games players may become future computer innovators! Here in Jordan, the games scene speaks for itself. Everybody seems to ignore how huge games sales for the Amiga, MSX and PC are. Just ask any one of the many shops selling software that have started to pop up all over Amman.

The issue here is bigger than just defending the Amiga. It's about unnecessary attacks by PC users on the Macintosh, Macintosh user attacks on the Amiga, Amiga user attacks on the Atari ST and other battles.

I have personally used the Amiga, Macintosh, PC and other machines extensively. The variety has been a great experience. It's time that this "my computer is better than yours" argument was brought to an end. Let's allow people to enjoy their computers. Isn't that what it's all about?

1-Gigabit transistor breakthrough from NEC

● NEC claims to have developed the technology to produce one-gigabit transistors. The size is said to be much smaller than current 64-megabit transistors. An NEC spokesman says the firm has overcome the barrier of the so-called "quantum effect" of electrons, and has achieved a method of laying out the elements. NEC claims that tests have been successful so far.

Analysts say that this technology, while a breakthrough, may not achieve a market niche soon because a dynamic random access memory can be improved to hold a maximum of one gigabit of memory, and the industry may be reluctant to change to a new device. This means that this transistor may be introduced sometime in the 21st century.

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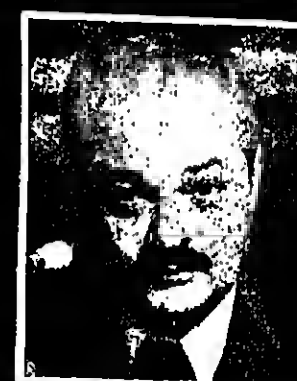
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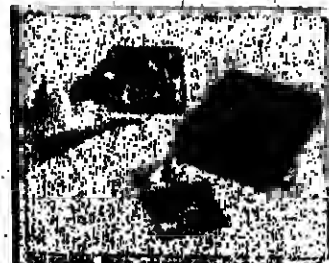
MiniDisc to replace audio tapes

● AUDIO CASSETTE tapes which were invented 30 years ago are likely to become obsolete with a new generation of portable audio equipment that lets users record music digitally. Sony's MiniDisc system will compete with a similar system developed by Philips Consumer Electronics. The MiniDisc uses discs that are about half the size of compact discs (CDs). Each is enclosed in a protective cartridge that makes it resemble a computer diskette. The discs can be re-recorded up to a million times and are much more portable than CDs. Sony spent \$32.5 million on develop-

ment and hopes to replace today's audio cassettes which are rapidly losing market share to CDs.

Three MiniDisc models — two portables and one for the car — are scheduled to go on sale in Japan next month and later in the US and Europe. A recording portable model will be selling in Japan for \$650, while a play-back only version is to cost \$490. The minidisks themselves should cost around \$11

apiece. Both the Sony and Philips systems use new digital compression techniques to reduce the recorded sound information by an astonishing three-quarters. That is done by eliminating the sounds that developers say are either too soft for human ears to hear or are masked by louder sounds.



A.P.

PC PAP

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JORDAN WEEK

An unconventional report on
Jordanian news and views

New revelations unveiled at Al Nafeer trial

Jordanians are following with interest the events of the trial of two Lower House deputies charged in the case of Al Nafeer Al Islami, which resumed on Monday at the State Security Court. Public Prosecutor Muhammad Hijazi called in witnesses who testified on the relationship between defendants Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarash, their association with Dar Al Quran Al Karim religious society until the mid 1980s, when they began showing political inclinations which contravened with the society's spiritual objectives.

Hijazi said that documents obtained by the prosecution indicated that the group was planning to attack foreign embassies in Amman including the US, British and French missions.

Other witnesses associated Qarash with two co-defendants, who are accused of being members of



Al Nafeer and of possession of weapons and explosives and have pleaded guilty to charges. It was revealed that Qarash organized the group and became its leader in 1991.

Testimonies before the three-judge panel headed by Lt. Colonel Youssef Fouad also implicated the group with receiving external

financial help from hard-line Palestinian groups. Shbeilat's driver testified that he had supplied both Shbeilat and Qarash with machine guns during the Gulf crisis.

Meanwhile, the prosecution denied news reports that there were additional arrests connected with the case.

Ad Dustour daily said that the High Justice Court has postponed deliberations in the case filed by Mrs Shbeilat against the prime minister, the public military prosecutors, the director of the General Intelligence Dept. and the general prosecutor of the State Security Court. The paper said Mrs Shbeilat's lawyer had asked for a postponement.

In an unrelated case, the Amman prosecutor general began

questioning the director of the Royal Cultural Center, Mr Iyad Qattan, on alleged slander charges of the Lower House of Parliament.

Speaker of the Lower House Dr Abdul Latif Arabayst has filed a slander suit against the RCC director in connection with a letter Mr Qattan is supposed to have written to the House last August.

Mr Qattan's letter is said to have criticized members of Parliament for their treatment of Tafleeh residents who were protesting the House's indictment of former public works minister Mr Mahmoud Hawamdeh for corruption. Dr Arabayst claimed that the letter was slanderous and undermined the dignity of the House.

Mr Qattan protested the arrest of some Tafleeh residents, who were also charged with slander, and accused the House of "terrorizing the public."

Dr Arabayst said Jordanians have a duty to protect Parliament from slander.

Mr Qattan denied the charges.

Bloodless surgery Jordan expresses interest in multi-million method to treat brain tumors

By Rana Ghanma
Special to The Star

THE MEDICAL breakthrough of treating brain tumors without surgery is being introduced to Jordan by Mr Jacques Renaud of the Swedish Elekta Co, the maker of the Leksell Gamma Knife system, which simply destroys brain cancer cells by bombarding it with Gamma rays.

Mr Renaud, area manager for radiosurgical equipment at Elekta, was in Jordan to participate in the Pan Arab Gamma Knife two-day seminar, which was held at the Jordan InterContinental Hotel between 7 and 8 October to introduce the "Gamma Knife" method for treating brain cancer.

In an interview with The Star, Mr Renaud said that the Leksell Gamma Knife is a unique surgical tool for the treatment of deep-seated and often inaccessible tumors and blood vessel malformations in the brain. He added that as a non-invasive technique, the Gamma Knife involves no traditional surgical incisions and is "a bloodless procedure." No lengthy recuperation is required and virtually no risk for mortality exists.

Mr Renaud said that the Gamma Knife surgery is devoid of postoperative complications such as bleeding and infections. Patients experience no discomfort and may resume a normal lifestyle immediately following treatment.

Elekta is the only company in the world that manufactures the Gamma Knife machine. Presently, only 32 machines are operating in top rated hospitals worldwide, including the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, the Royal Hallamshire in England and St. Mary's Hospital which is an affiliate of the Mayo Foundation in the United States.

Jordan has expressed interest in the machine and is currently negotiating with Elekta, but with a price tag of SF 6 million (about JD 3.27 million), funding remains the main obstacle. While Mr Renaud refused to commit his company to any loans or grants, he said that they will help with the financing.

While treatment by the Gamma Knife method is estimated to cost \$9,000 per patient, studies have shown that total investment in the machine can be recouped in 2.5 years, which makes good business sense.

Mr Renaud said that Elekta has chosen Jordan as the machine's first home in the Middle East. But he added that a number of Arab countries have also expressed interest in acquiring the machine. "We believe Jordan is the perfect place because of the availability of high level educated neurosurgeons and easy accessibility from around the region."

If and when the machine is installed, Jordan can expect to become a center for the treatment of brain tumors with patients coming from all over the region.

With absolutely no recorded mistakes, the machine promises to be a valuable economic investment, in addition to boosting Jordan's medical reputation.

Jordanians polled on political parties

As political parties began filing for official recognition by the government under the new law, a public opinion survey by the official news agency Petra concluded that 14 percent of the sample were involved in political parties while about 55 percent were not thinking of joining a political party.

The poll, which was conducted in August and covered a random sample of 250 males from all over the Kingdom, also concluded that 30 percent of party members belonged to nationalist streams, while socialists made up 27 percent and religiously oriented 22 percent.

About 14 percent said they believed political parties will play a vital role in the next general elections, while 45 percent said parties will have a medium role.

Almost 53 percent said they believed there was a relationship

between party and tribal affiliation. More than 31 percent said party papers will be influential while 46 percent said it will not.

Meanwhile, at least four political parties officially filed for licenses including the Communist Party, the Arab Baath Party. Other parties are holding meeting to prepare their manifestos before applying.

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Patients positioned in the
collimator helmet prior to
Gamma Knife surgery

By Ian Williams

JORDAN'S NEW ambassador to the UN has arrived in New York at an interesting time — and with an interesting idea to accommodate conflicting claims to the Holy City of Jerusalem. It came to him 10 years ago, on an official visit to London.

One day his driver told him they were entering the "City of London." He told the driver he was pretty certain that he had been in London for several days by then. The driver explained, however, that he was referring to an area of one square mile in the heart of the ancient city where the Lord Mayor reigns supreme, and even the Queen has to ask permission to enter.

"It made me think of an even more ancient city, the one square mile of Al Quds, the home of the Holy Places," ambassador Adnan Abu Odeh says. "It struck me then that it was illogical that the holiness of an ancient place should be determined by its modern municipal boundaries. When city limits are extended, does what was once not holy suddenly become holy? Now the Israelis have extended the boundary of Jerusalem as far as the town of Ramallah. Is Ramallah holy?"

His views, aired this year in *Foreign Affairs*, caused a considerable stir in Jordan. In his article he drew a distinction between Jerusalem's walled city, housing the shrines of the three Abrahamic religions, and the rest of the city. He pointed out that Jerusalem's municipal limits had been extended by the British in 1933, the Arabs in 1955, and the Israelis in 1980.

He suggests, therefore, that the walled city should have no flags flying over it. Instead, it should be open to all, and governed by a council representing all of the concerned religious authorities.

The inhabitants of the walled city would hold Palestinian passports if they are Arabs, and Israeli passports if they are Jews, and would vote accordingly in their respective elections. East Jerusalem would be Al Quds, capital of the new Palestine, and West Jerusalem would be Yerushalayim, capital of Israel.

The whole idea of the article was to refute those who insist that the issue of Jerusalem should be deferred or postponed in the peace negotiations, ambassador Abu Odeh explains. "Why should it be?"

"They say it's a complicated problem. My answer is that the only complication is finding the political will to solve it. And now, only a few days ago, the Palestinians asked at the Washington peace talks, 'Why defer Jerusalem?' They are absolutely right."

Asked about the difference between his solution and UN resolutions on the issue he responds: "It is not internationalization! Arab intellectuals cite UN resolution 194, because it talks about the repatriation and compensation of refugees, as one of the most important resolutions for the legitimacy of the Palestine question. But in 194 there is only one article on the refugee question, while there are two on the internationalization of Jerusalem."

"But I'm talking not about internationalization of the whole city, but sanctification of the holy city inside the walls and partition of the rest, outside the walls." He says opponents of his proposal in Jordan fall into two categories. Some are against the peace settlement. Others "fall into the category of my political opponents, and so they look part in con-

A pragmatic solution? How Abu Odeh sees the future of Jerusalem

demning the article" without ever reading it.

The former minister of information and chief of the Royal Court, is mildly optimistic about the new Israeli government: "I welcome Rabin because he gives me more hope. But on the subject of Jerusalem, even he talks about it as untouchable, part of the 'security' settlements. Rabin wants Jerusalem, the Jordan Valley and the Golan from the areas where new settlements are being stopped."

Abu Odeh agrees with diplomats of many nationalities that there is a narrow window of opportunity between last June's Israeli elections and the US elections in November. "Rabin wants to give a good impression, and Bush wants a foreign policy

coup," Abu Odeh points out. "The challenge that is facing the Israelis now is whether they are prepared to accept any meaningful self-rule for the Palestinians."

"In my opinion that means, among other things, a complete freeze on settlements, including so-called security settlements around Jerusalem. Only with that will there be hope for a real peace settlement."

"The Arab side, however, still is handicapped by the divisions of the Gulf War," Abu Odeh insists. "You can still feel it. It has not been dissipated. Here in the UN, at the level of the ambassadors and representatives, the lines are blurred, but not erased completely. The Jordanian representative attributes to US domestic

politics the recent accusations in Washington that Jordan is ignoring sanctions against Iraq: "I think it has to do with the elections here," he speculates. "In fact, we have been complying with the sanctions from the beginning, and now the extra patrols on Jordan's border are costing a lot of money."

Abu Odeh discounts any suggestions that Arab nations are getting a better deal at the United Nations since Egypt's Boutros Boutros-Ghali was elected secretary-general this year. "He has a global view rather than an Arab view, and he is trying to do his best to ensure a more balanced United Nations," Abu Odeh says.

In answer to comments that the British press has been particular-



Abu Odeh

ly critical of the secretary-general's reluctance to undertake new UN peacekeeping operations until the countries who call for them express a willingness to shoulder the increased expenses, Abu Odeh concludes firmly: "He is the secretary-general. He has to assert himself. In the final analysis, he was right."

The Washington Report

Let technology take roots in Taiwan

THE INTRODUCTION of new technology to Taiwan has been the major strategy of its industrialization in the earlier state. However, the technologies brought in were not good enough to sustain constant development of Taiwan's economy and to maintain its competitive edge. The industries in Taiwan, therefore, have shifted from the introduction of new technology to the development of its own in recent years, hoping to gradually obtain self-reliance in the fields of science and technology. In order to do that, the government, other than emphasizing fundamental scientific research, is promoting international exchanges and cooperation on science and technology.

According to its Twelve-year Science Development Program, the government will focus on the following three directions when pursuing international scientific cooperation: Firstly, promoting international cooperation within academic research and manufacturing technology on the principle of equality and mutual benefit; secondly, continuing cooperation with developed nations to bring in new technology to Taiwan, and at the same time eagerly participating in multinational projects, and to provide assistance to the developing nations, especially Southeast Asia countries, fulfilling the obligations of being a member of the world community; thirdly, taking advantage of the government's infrastructure projects and the procurement to bring in new technologies through international cooperation.

Kuo Nan-Hung, Minister of the Executive Yuan, pointed out that Taiwan's industry is under pressure to up-grade its products, and the purpose of the international cooperation is to "quickly obtain the new technology and to up-grade its industry."

Before talking about international cooperation, Kuo said, "Taiwan's industry has to pinpoint its needs, find out possible sources and be ready to execute the project effectively." As to the method of cooperation, Kuo noted, the exchange activities can be carried out by joining international associations of science and technology, to allow the industry to become aware of the current international trends in development. It can also be realized by signing cooperation agreements with scientific organizations of developed nations. In so doing, according to Kuo, the most important thing is to implant the manufacturing skills of the matured products.

Kuo pointed out that most of the new technologies brought in were closely related with the upgrading of Taiwan's industry. Taiwan has enough capital and manpower (except in the field of high-tech industry) to do so, Kuo noted. "As to the aspects of technology and marketing, two of its weaker points, Taiwan can consider cooperation with foreign companies, using its capital in exchange for the technology, and jointly exploring the world market," Kuo said.

In its technological cooperation with developed nations, Taiwan has signed 30 agreements with the United States, 11 agreements with countries like Germany, France, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden, Netherlands and Ireland. Agreements were also linked between Taiwan and Japan, South Korea and South Africa.

Taiwan has joined the "International Science Foundation" and has become one of the 13 sponsors as well as one of the foundation's 11 directors, making progress in the field of international cooperation. Moreover, discussions were held with countries in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, and results are expected.

The 13 science advisors' meeting was held by the Executive Yuan on May, 1991. Among the issues discussed on the agenda was how to bring in new technology by utilizing the Six-Year National Development Plan, especially in the fields of under-sea water construction, the long tunnel project, high-speed railroad project and the construction of the incinerator, with a view to implanting the new technology in Taiwan.

Kuo is also in charge of the Executive Yuan's Science Committee. He revealed that in the past, due to lack of maintenance, costs were almost equal to the cost of construction, indicating the importance of cutting down the cost of maintenance by implanting maintenance skills locally, developing the system's key components and raising the effectiveness of the system's operations.

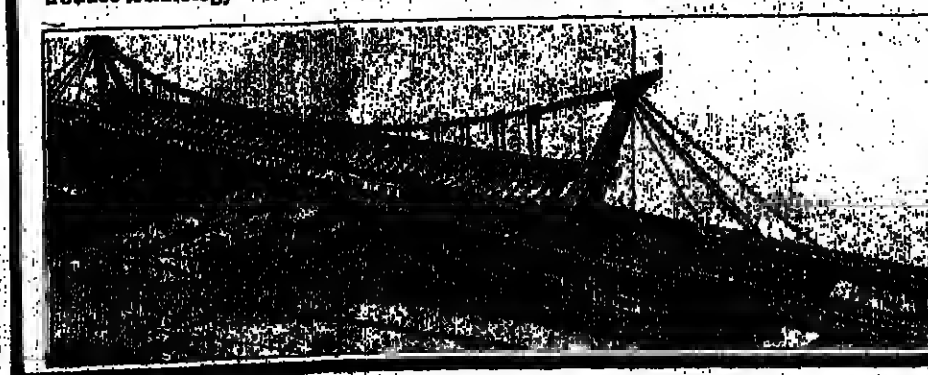
Kuo suggested that when negotiating the contract, proper steps should be taken to secure a contractual obligation for the company to introduce technology to the local research unit, thus ensuring that technology takes root in Taiwan. On the other hand, a consortium combining the manufacturers and



Taipei Confucius Temple (above), Mr Kuo Nan-Hung (right) points out that technology has to take roots in Taiwan



Since the technological requirements for the rapid transit system are so high, it has to rely on international cooperation



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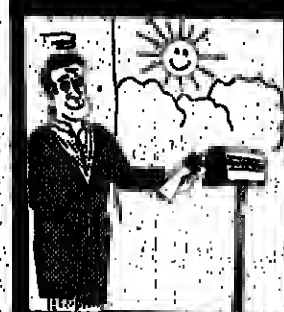
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Jordan's Greens prepare to take action

By Liz Caron
Special to The Star

WITH THE boom that increased local industry in the Seventies, Jordan now shares with the rest of the world in its pollution problems. In response, The Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP) was established in 1988.

Led by ex-Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, amongst other prominent figures, the Society is a non-governmental organization depending entirely on donations

for funds and relying on members' volunteer work. Membership has expanded to over a thousand members from concerned authorities.

"We now have 80 branches in the districts of Mafraq, Irbid, Aqaba, Kerak, the Jordan Valley, Tafila, Fuheis and Zarqa, to handle the issues in those areas," said Dr. Muhammad Masalha, vice-president of the Society.

The branches and their members work closely with scientists, farmers, industrialists, decision-makers and educators, and aim to

to alert the general public to pollution issues through campaigning and fund-raising. They also hold bi-monthly lectures and seminars discussing various environmental problems.

Dr Masalha added that the JSCEP works in close contact with international organizations such as UNEP, ESCWA, UNESCO and UNDP, and also liaises with the Royal Scientific Society and the Earth Science Program at Yarmouk University, who carry out most of the scientific environmental research in

the country.

The influence so far of the JSCEP has been commendable. Projects that it has been involved in include the National Environmental Information and Education Program (NEIEP), which was initiated in January last year through cooperation with the Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung organization.

The Society has also been an influential source for the Ministry of Higher Education, which is currently studying how to include environmental studies as a possible



Dr Masalha

course within the higher education curriculum. The ministry hopes to go one step further by preparing the release of a book on the subject, which is to be included as part of the core for basic education.

Since 1990, the JSCEP has been campaigning to promote environmental awareness amongst the farmers in the Jordan Valley about the hazards of burning plastic products. A new method for recycling has been introduced by the private sector, where materials are collected at one point, chopped up and then sent back to the main factories. With a refund of JD30 to 35 for every ton of plastic waste, the project is proving to be popular. Other current issues that the Society is studying include: Waste water treatment, water pollution, the location of garbage, toxic waste and residue.

"We are working towards creating a National Environmental Act for Jordan," Dr Masalha continued. "The guidelines for it are now being drafted, and we hope that it can be submitted to the parliament by the end of the year." To facilitate its work, the Society is currently seeking the advice of various ministries and departments, which provide specialist facts and figures.

A positive sign that environmental issues are high on the agenda is that the Jordanian government has allocated JD 300,000 to be spent on scientific research on the use and effect of pesticides and chemical residues. Furthermore, within the Society's 'Greening of Jordan by the year 2000' campaign, it aims to "coordinate a program with the Ministry of Agriculture to implement forestation and to carry out biodiversity studies and research." For this, the JSCEP has already written to the ministry and is waiting for its response to their initiative.

As part of its public awareness drive, the Society works closely with local institutions. Last May, they organized an environmental action day, which was held alongside the Amra Hotel, to clean up Amman's National Park. This month, in celebration of the 14 October being Arab Environment Day, the Society has coordinated with the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Department to clean up the Kamalia Forest, located between Sweileh and Salt. This event will be patronized by Mr Fayed Khayneh, Jordan's Minister of Agriculture.

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Al Amal Cancer Center

Putting the 'fun' into fundraising

By a Star Staff Writer

JD3 MILLION in the space of one week? To raise such a sum would be no mean feat, it's true, but for the organizers of this week's charity drive in aid of the Al Amal Cancer Center, the goal may be nearly in sight.

All over the country, charitable organizations have gathered in solidarity with Jordan's growing numbers of cancer victims, with the solemn vow that the nearly-completed Al Amal Center will soon be ready for their usage.

But for this week alone, the subject has taken a lighter side. "Fundraising should be fun!" claims the charity drive's organizing committee, which has a host of events and activities lined up.

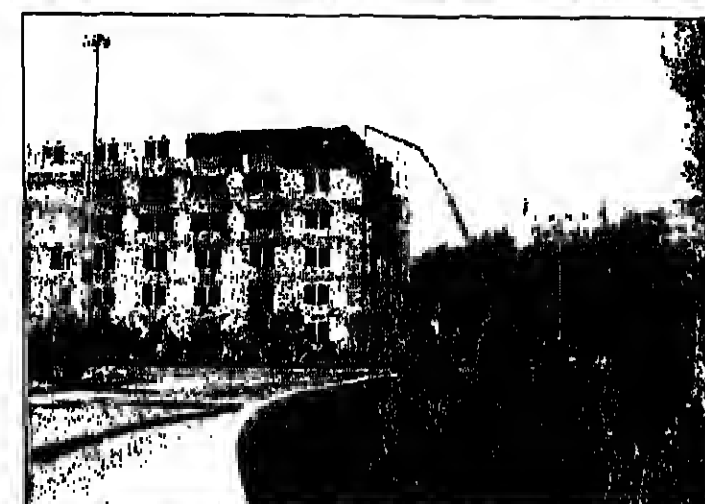
As of yesterday, up to 20,000 school children wearing special outfits will have been calling at homes and collecting donations, while tonight will see a sumptuous gala dinner at the Philadelphia Hotel, under the patronage of His Majesty the King and attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Tomorrow will be the "action day" on the agenda, with a sponsored walk between Sports City and the grounds of the University of Jordan, a 'friendly' football match and an evening of arts at the Palace of Culture. All are part of a positive campaign that puts emphasis on "hope" for the victims of this disease.

For those who find the thought of walking or soccer to be a little too strenuous, an option for stay-at-homes is also available. From the comfort of your sitting room, contributions can be made via an all-day JTV "telathon", to be aired on the Arabic channel, hosted by local personalities. A format in English will also be shown through the Jordan Weekly magazine program, which will be on the air on Friday at 9 pm.

"The aim of this campaign is to make people aware of what cancer is, and also to give them back their confidence," said Dr Abdallah Al Khatib, head of the campaign's organizing committee and executive president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS). He hopes the campaign will remove stigmas and fears from the phenomenon of cancer, while alerting the public to the reality of the disease.

With over 1200 new cases of cancer having been registered in the Kingdom last year, Dr Al



A generous contributor gives a much-needed donation (above), the nearly-completed Al Amal Center (below)

Khatib confirmed that "Jordan has a real need for a specialized center for cancer treatment in all of its aspects." These he described as being research, early detection of the illness and the necessary care with which to help patients recover.

"It is true that if caught in time, cancer can be cured," Dr Al Khatib added, "but that requires a lot of money, infrastructures and qualified personnel."

His is the voice of experience speaking — his own daughter was a victim of cancer at the age

of 13. He knows only too well the tragedy of suffering, the need for care, the emotional and financial strains incurred.

In the case of Dr Al Khatib, he was even obliged to seek medical advice for his child in the United States. For both parents and fam-

ilies suffering in Jordan and the region, the Al Amal Cancer Center will be closer to hand and much more accessible.

Situated on a plot of land donated by the University of Jordan, the foundations of this seven-floor complex were first laid back in 1989. Now that the construction has been completed, it is hoped that once it is kitted with medical and radiation equipment, it will be ready to receive its first patients. The total cost of the entire operation is said to have run to JD14 million, and has been funded so far by the government, public and private sectors.

A regional "first", the aims of this unique facility include:

- Providing a complete service for the treatment of cancer in Jordan, including diagnosis and treatment of its various forms.

- Providing vital statistics and records for determining the various types of the disease.

- Offering research possibilities into the causes of cancer, its prevention and cures.

- Giving advice and guidance about the disease and its ramifications.

- Communicating with neighboring countries, with a view to improving relations and offering medical expertise to patients unable to be treated in their own country.

Neither private nor public, the center aims to be an independent institution offering financial support to those in need, at an estimated cost of up to JD2-3 million per year.

The organizing committee for the charity drive claims that if its JD3 million target is reached, the center may be fully operational by the end of next year. Working on the basis of "a dinar per head", Jordan's three million strong population should be easily able to hit the jackpot. ■

Eastern Art

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LA highlight:

A show of courtly Persian art

By Jennifer Foulds

LOS ANGELES — The American fascination with Islamic art seems unflagging; virtually the whole season this year and last was marked by exhibitions evocative of the glorious age of perfection in Islamic art, spearheaded by Persian artists.

In the latest show to come to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Americans have the chance to see masterpieces of Persian painting including many works never before exhibited in the US. *Art of the Persian Courts: Selections from the Art and History Trust*, offers a survey which focuses primarily on the arts of the book, an enormously influential aspect of Persian art and one of the plinths of refined taste and brilliant technical innovation in the Islamic world.

Approximately 125 manuscripts, paintings, drawings, calligraphies and a selection of metalwork, ceramics, stoneware and implements are featured. The exhibition begins with a small introductory section of pre-Islamic ceramics and metalwork ranging from the third millennium BC to the seventh century AD. As the arts of the book — calligraphy, manuscript illustration and illumination, painting and drawing — most clearly demonstrate the evolution and refinement of the aesthetic, the majority of the exhibition investi-

gates their development during the medieval period in the wake of the Muslim and Mongol invasions.

During the centuries following the Mongol invasions of Iran in the 13th century, Persian ideals and sensibilities were adopted by foreign invaders and dominated taste among the great dynasties of the eastern Islamic world: The Ilkhanids, Timurids, Safavids and Mughals. Under the lavish patronage of these rulers the arts of the book were elevated to new heights as objects of beauty.

Over the centuries the texts of these manuscripts, often historical epics or collections of poetry, and the images that accompanied them, evolved into an established set of conventions and idealized figural types. The artists who created these images and the rulers who commissioned them generally had little interest in recreating the real world in their depiction. Rather, the brilliant, jewel-like palette and conventions of pose, perspective and two-dimensionality characteristic of Persian painting were meant to reflect an ideal world of beauty and perfection.

Nearly all major schools of Persian painting and drawing are represented and the Art and History Trust collection has a particularly rich selection of works from the Safavid period (1501-1736) and related works from the Mughal dynasty (1526-



The Vizier Khalifa-Sultan ca. 1570



The Nimble Cavalier ca. 1614

1858) in India.

Among the highlights are four paintings from the renowned *Shahnama* (Book of Kings) of Shah Tahmasp (c.1522-1545), considered the most luxurious book ever created by any culture. An early Safavid ruler, Shah Tahmasp brought the finest Persian artists of his court at Tabriz. The massive volume took more than twenty years to complete and its images represent a rarified distillation of courtly life.

The exhibition also features exceptional calligraphies including two monumental pages from a

artists to the Mughal court.

Eventually, however, these Persian elements were integrated with indigenous Indian influences and later Mughal painting is characterized by greater naturalism, three-dimensionality and a keener interest in accurate portraiture rather than idealized types.

As the power and artistic patronage of these ruling dynasties waned, artists were employed by the aristocratic and growing mercantile classes to create portraits and other independent paintings — works not intended for inclusion in manuscripts or albums.

In addition to a selection of these works, the exhibition also includes several large-scale (more than six feet by five feet) Qajar portraits from the early 19th century in oil on canvas, a medium betraying the influence of Western contact through diplomatic exchanges and trade. The latest works in the exhibition are illuminated calligraphies that date from the early 20th century.

Any show of Persian art has a special resonance in the Californian context because of the sizeable Iranian and Arab community that lives in the state. Many of these people are collectors themselves and it is hoped that US museums will soon begin to feature possessions of Iranians and Arabs living amongst them. Jennifer Foulds is a writer and researcher based in Los Angeles.

Premier architectural awards pronounced

By Maryam Schiller

GENEVA — Selected from an initial 259 nominations, the nine winners of the 1992 Aga Khan Award for Architecture have been announced. The jury described the winners as "exemplary projects whose essence, directness and modesty have lessons for the world at large."

Divided into two sections — projects which enhanced urban environments and projects which generated new architectural languages — the diversity of location and programs of the winners was once again a feature of this premier architectural award, worth \$500,000.

The *Association de Sauvegarde de la Médina de Kairouan* (ASM) was established in 1977 to restore, rehabilitate and operate the Medina's monuments and public spaces. The jury praised the ASM's work not only for its successful restorations, but also for the way in which new functions have been introduced into rehabilitated structures — including a school for deaf children, social services and craft centers. Expertise acquired during the first part of the Kairouan Conservation Program is now available to private owners who want to renovate their homes.

The ongoing Palace Parks Program in Istanbul, Turkey was commended "for ensuring the continuing growth of local expertise through its efforts in education, restoration and maintenance. The program was begun

in 1984 when six Ottoman palace complexes were re-opened to the Istanbul public by the National Palaces Trust. Three of them have become palace museums, while the others have assumed an important function in Istanbul's congested urban environment.

The Cultural Park for Children in Cairo, Egypt, includes a library, art studios, computer workshops and other spaces, which serve a poor community whose participation in design development and pride in the result have stimulated broad processes of community renewal.

When the East Wadhat Upgrading Program began in 1980, the 300 refugee families in Amman's East Wadhat neighborhood were living in temporary corrugated iron shanties. They had no sanitation services, schools or health facilities.

Collaboration between an ad hoc agency created by the Government of Jordan — The Urban Development Department — and the population of East Wadhat has transformed the settlement into a nexus of serviced homes, public facilities and landscaped public areas.

The jury cited the Urban Development Department for its exceptional ability to address a wide range of economic and social development issues during the upgrading process, while maintaining a high degree of cost recovery.

Yogyakarta squatter settlement in Indonesia was scheduled for demolition by the government in 1985. Collaboration between a

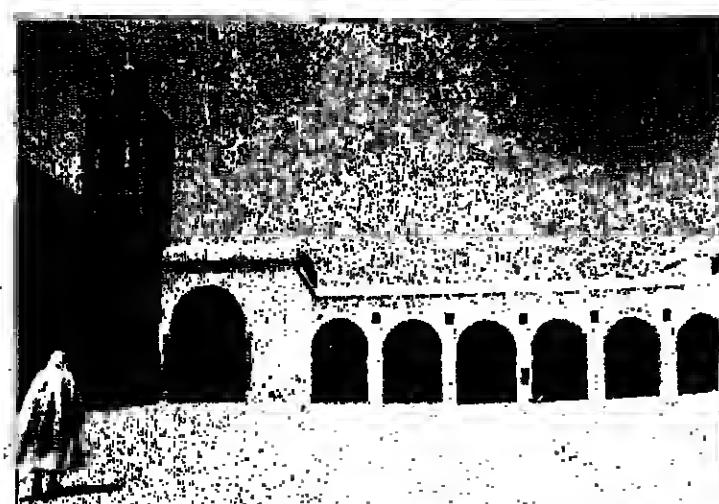
local official, a social worker, student volunteers and the inhabitants to save the settlement through environmental improvement has preserved and transformed the site.

The erection of a community center was followed by two-storey houses. The jury applauded the transformation of the site through self-help, and the equally important transformation of the inhabitants from a group of outcasts into a community making a better life for its children.

The Stone Building System of Dara's provinces, Syria, was initiated by three brothers. Using locally available black basalt stone and computer technology, they created a low-cost, climatically responsive alternative to cement block construction in rural Syria. Referring to the first four completed schools in southern Syria, the jury stated that "in a region where current schools reproduce anonymous, dull and alienating buildings, the use of vaulted spaces has created a challenging and original alternative."

Architect and developer Turgut Cansever has constructed custom-designed houses in timber and stone at Demir Holiday Village in Bodrum, Turkey. The site, located on a bay surrounded by national forest lands, is in an area scarred by uncontrolled tourist development. The jury cited the project as "setting a high standard for architectural design, craftsmanship and commercial land development."

Realized entirely in stabilized earth brick, the Panafrique Insti-



The Kairouan Conservation Program, Tunisian award-winner

tute for Development, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, was designed and built by the *Association pour le Développement naturel d'une Architecture d'un Urbanisme Africain* (ADAUA), a non-governmental organization that shares the Institute's conviction that Africa needs to create its own development models.

The layout of the campus is inspired by Volta village organization, and dominated by vaulted and domed roofs built by masons trained on the site, with bricks also made there. The project used local resources and traditional building techniques with technical virtuosity, and has achieved "one of the most impressive contemporary realizations in stabilized mud brick in Africa."

The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India was designed by Bimal Patel to reflect the deep structures he perceives governing Indo-Islamic architecture. The low-cost, low-maintenance buildings achieve the climatic control that was one of the major design concerns. Within its complex of academic facilities and dormitories, the interplay of internal courts, landscaped outdoor spaces and brick and concrete buildings creates an "inviting environment for work, interaction and repose," according to the jury's citation.

They went on to praise the projects overall as being "economically sustainable, humanistic solutions relevant for the developed countries as well as the developing world."

Academic File

By Margaret Crockett

Uganda's legacy of violence



DAVID OBER and Alfred Ojoli were returning home one evening last year when they were grabbed by a group of rebels belonging to the United Democratic Christian Army (UDCA). The rebels accused them of being members of the government's 'Arrow Brigades' — local militia created to help the National Resistance Army — and then cut their right hands off. Both men were unarmed when attacked, having just been washing at a well near their home.

This type of incident is all too common in Uganda, where armed opposition groups have committed a wide range of human rights abuses. Rebel groups have executed prisoners. They have hacked to death young men in their homes. They have mutilated captives, cutting off their lips, hands, ears or noses.

Within months of coming to power the National Resistance Movement (NRM) government faced armed opposition by members of former governments and their armies. In the north were the Uganda People's Democratic Army (UPDA) and the messianic Holy Spirit Movement led by Alice Lakwena. In the east was the Uganda People's Army. Smaller armed opposition groups were also operating in the east and southwest.

Lakwena's forces were defeated in November 1987 and a peace agreement was reached with the bulk of the UPDA in April 1988. The Holy Spirit Movement fragmented. In early 1991 members of the Holy Spirit Movement and former UPDA fighters, who had joined forces under Joseph Kony, formed the UDCA.

An armed force which attempted to overthrow the government of neighbouring Rwanda in 1990 was joined that year by many soldiers who defected from Uganda's National Resistance Army. This force still operates out of bases in south-west Uganda

where it has periodically held captives.

The UDCA and other armed opposition groups continue to commit serious abuses. In the past 18 months, for example, dozens of men and women have been brutally murdered or mutilated. Many civilians have been abducted, including schoolgirls.

The human rights watchdog Amnesty International, while condemning these grave abuses by opposition groups, points out that it is, however, up to the government to uphold international standards. It is the regime in

Kampala, Amnesty said in a recent report, that needs to create a climate in which violence and human rights abuses are less likely to occur.

"The army still acts as if it is above the law, arbitrarily arresting, torturing and even killing civilians," said a spokesman from Amnesty. "The government's measures to curb violations so far have simply not addressed the real, long-term problems."

Although many thousands of prisoners have been released since the National Resistance Movement (NRM) came to power

in 1986, killings, torture and arrests continue on a large scale. The action the government has taken on human rights issues has often not been sustained. Recently a government human rights monitor, known for his outspoken criticism of ongoing violations was fired.

"The government says a legacy of violence and disorder caused by previous governments limits its capacity to improve the situation. But Uganda's bloody history should not be allowed to dominate its future."

Since the government started

waging war against insurgents in 1986, the London-based Amnesty International has received reports of hundreds of civilians killed by the army in dozens of separate incidents. In April 1992, for example, soldiers killed four men and disposed of their bodies in a pit latrine. In this case the authorities arrested the soldiers, but in countless others no action has been taken.

Thousands of people have been arrested since 1986 and detained illegally, often in military barracks where many have faced torture. The authorities also appear to be using treason charges to crack down on the opposition including non-violent critics of the government, with at least 185 people now in prison on such charges.

According to Amnesty, the government has proved unwilling to investigate violations thoroughly or to bring those responsible for them to justice, despite the scores of reports of abuses.

When investigations are announced they are slow and inconclusive and not a single report has yet been published. When the government does appear to take decisive action it piles violation on violation by executing soldiers — often after unfair military trials with no chance of appeal.

Deliberate and arbitrary killings have resulted in hundreds of deaths of ordinary villagers. Violence is used to terrorize people into providing support for rebel forces and many victims of rebel abuses have been mutilated, abducted or raped. In July last year 43 schoolgirls were abducted by rebels — two were killed and all were repeatedly raped.

Amnesty said the government must take and sustain preventive measures to stop human rights violations. For example, all detentions should be regulated and formally recorded and urgent steps should be taken to bring those responsible for abuses to justice. ■

Academic File

The census that rocked Bhutan's crown

By Kinley Dorji

THIMPHU — It began with a straightforward census, but now the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan is caught up in what many here see as a struggle for national survival. And the country's young monarch has put himself on the line by taking full responsibility for resolving the crisis and saying he will abdicate if he fails.

"If I, as a King, cannot protect the sovereignty and integrity of our country and ensure a secure future for our people, then it will be my duty to accept full responsibility and abdicate," King Jigme Singye Wangchuck told the nation, a pledge later repeated to an emotion-charged session of the National Assembly.

The 1988 census was organized because government officials said they needed better statistics to plan a process of modernization after years of self-imposed isolation.

The first finding sent shock waves through the government. Census officials estimated that more than 100,000 economic migrants had settled among the ethnic Nepalese minority living in the kingdom's southern districts.

The Buddhist Bhutanese, a population of farmers, suddenly saw the possibility of being — in the words of a government official — "an endangered species."

Immigration laws were reinforced and all recent immigration declared illegal, sparking protests and violent demonstrations by those declared illegal. The protesters were supported by Bhutan's ethnic Nepalese minority, who the government says form one-third of the country's 600,000 population. Looming in the background, in the view of the Bhutanese government, were another six million ethnic Nepalese on the Indian side of the border.

The situation brought home to the Bhutanese the specter often raised here by political analysts, academics and historians — the Sikkimese parallel.

After years of migration by ethnic Nepalese into the kingdom of Sikkim, sovereignty was lost in 1974 when the government was confronted by a Nepalese majority opting to become part of India.

That example heightened reactions to the realization of recent large-scale settlement in Bhutan. The guerrilla wing of the foreign-based Bhutan People's Party

made raids into southern Bhutan, destroying property, looting villages, kidnapping and killing those refusing to join or support the movement. Other Kathmandu-based groups stepped up an anti-Bhutan propaganda campaign, with support from political parties and a section of the Nepalese press.

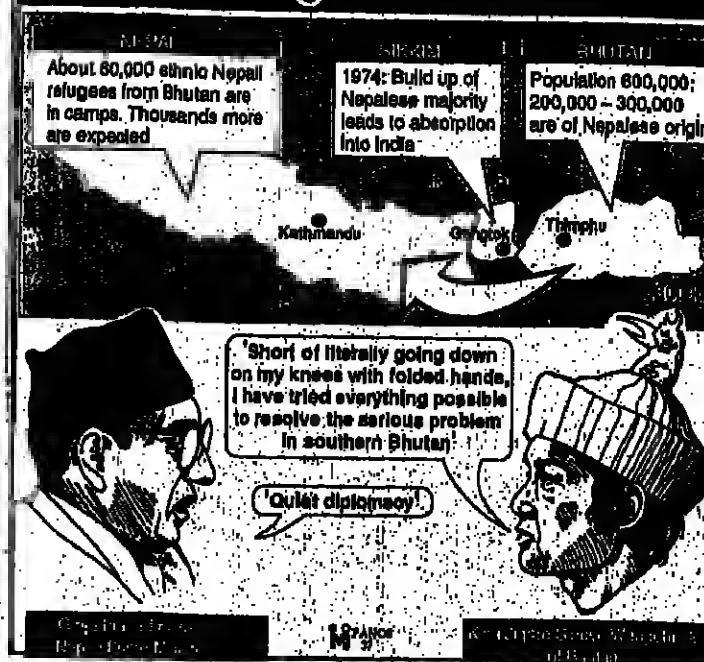
To heal the wounds of past months, the King has pardoned more than 1,520 people arrested for "anti-national activities." Some have been allowed back into the civil service.

Despite a lukewarm response by many members of the public to such measures, he has visited the disturbed districts 24 times in 22 months. His government has stayed firm on its immigration policy, but has recently expressed concern about the departure of Bhutanese citizens of Nepalese origin.

In July the King rushed to the south to talk to more than 400 people who had officially asked to emigrate. His appeal, still echoes through the country:

"Short of literally going down on my knees... I have tried everything possible to resolve the serious problem we have today in southern Bhutan. I am therefore

Clash of Kingdoms



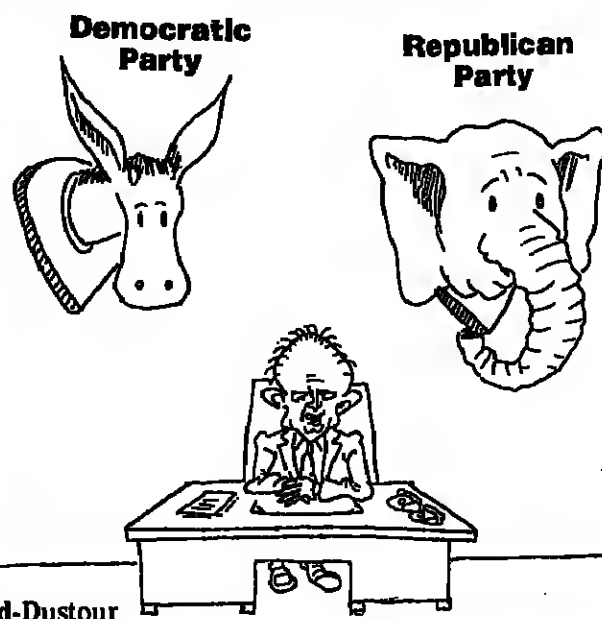
deeply pained that all of you here today who are genuine citizens had not only applied to leave your country but even declared that you would not wait for more than two days to have your applications processed. I have come here from Thimphu to ask you all, not to migrate.

But international media focus has now shifted to eastern Nepal, where the UNHCR estimates that 55,000 Nepalese live in refugee camps. Coverage of allegations of government atrocities emanating

from the camps has overshadowed Bhutan's demographic concerns. History has been unkind to kings. King Jigme once told a journalist: He must be hoping for a gentler judgement as, almost a lone figure, he tries to steer his kingdom through the biggest crisis in its modern history. ■

PANOS

Kinley Dorji is editor of the Bhutanese daily newspaper, *Kuensel*.



Our Say....

Border disputes in the Gulf

THE RECENT border conflicts in the Arab Gulf region bring back somber images of the days that preceded the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on the morning of 2 August 1990. Not that an invasion by Saudi Arabia of the tiny state of Qatar is imminent, or a war between Iran and the UAE over Abu Musa is about to be waged, but because such border contentions in the Gulf and other areas of the vast Arab region are easy to stir.

Who would gain from Saudi Arabia-Qatar discord? Certainly not the peoples of the two countries. In fact, the Iran-UAE and the Saudi Arabia-Qatar squabbles have brought down the theory of a stable Gulf region, now that the Iraqis have been tamed. Iran, the biggest military power in the region, has been accused of attempting to destabilize the oil-rich Gulf area and of harboring territorial ambitions. Saudi Arabia, on the other hand, is being viewed suspiciously by its smaller neighbors, especially since the end of the Gulf war, when Saudi Arabia emerged as the dominant political and economic force in the Arab world.

The current border disputes will challenge the durability of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The council has failed to settle another territorial quarrel between Bahrain and Qatar over the tiny Island of Fisht Al Dibel, which has been raging for years. It could not but provide lip-service in support of the UAE cause and now it finds itself dumbfounded before the Doha-Riyadh enmity, which has deteriorated at an alarming rate in a matter of days.

The area's caretakers, namely the Americans, are not interested in this sibling rivalry. At this delicate stage of the American elections, neither candidate is willing to waste time on a foreign policy issue; which is not expected to affect the flow of oil from the Gulf to the Western world.

The Arab League is afflicted by the same paralysis that is grounding GCC efforts. The fact that no political body can mediate in the current disputes with any degree of success should give ample breeding ground for these conflicts to swell with unpredictable ends. Only when the United States feels its "vital interests" are at threat will it put actual pressure on its Gulf allies to put an end to the present hysteria.

Border disputes have proved time and again that they are bombs waiting to explode at any moment. The Gulf crisis is but a painful reminder of how such disputes can flare into a devastating war.

Border conflicts are now threatening relations between Egypt and Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, Iraq and Kuwait, Iraq and Iran among others. Not one single Arab country can claim to have settled its border disputes with its neighbors. We have the British and the French, the two former colonizers of the Arab world, to thank for these illogical political lines that run aimlessly across our maps, separating ethnic groups, clans and inviting clashes between brothers in the future.

But amid the hubbub of territorial conflicts and border clashes of the past few weeks, a sober and heartwarming agreement between Oman and Yemen has defused the tension along the borders of the two countries. The irony is that both countries have learned their lesson the hard way — after decades of bitter fueling, suspicions and actual combat. The agreement deserves the attention of both ourselves and our hot-headed brothers in the Gulf. ■

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Osama El-Sherif

Book review

Nailed by revolution

The Last Tsar
Edward Radzinsky
Tr. Marian Schwartz
Hodder & Stoughton

Reviewed by Ian McIntyre

IT IS not only under monarchical systems that publishers do wall out of royalty. It is true that until recently the House of Windsor seemed to be the only serious runner in the prize stakes, but since the advent of glasnost, the House of Romanov is coming up fast on the outside. British readers are currently being offered title-tattle about the bulimic propensities of their next queen. For some years now, those in the former Soviet Union have been able to gorge themselves on accounts of the rather more serious afflictions of their last emperor.

Edward Radzinsky's contribution to this canon is presented as a biography of Nicholas II, but the account given of the last tsar's life before 1917 is extremely sketchy, and almost two-thirds of the text is given over to the family's captivity in Siberia and their murder in Ekaterinburg.

The provincial Bolsheviks who did them to death had a Kafka-like way with language — they referred to the engineer's home that they commandeered for their butcher's work as "The House of Special Purpose."

Edward Radzinsky's way with words is less easy to describe. Those brought up on Fowler may well find his coolness towards main verbs and his fondness for on-sentence paragraphs hard to take. Perhaps this is because he is a man of the theater — he claims to be Russia's most frequently staged playwright after Chekhov. The constant striving for dramatic effect and the disjointed nature of the narrative are wearing, however. The general impression is of a literary collaboration between Cecil B De Mille, Barbara Cartland and Old Moore's Almanac.

Radzinsky's fascination with Nicholas dates from the Sixties, when he was a student at the Historical Archive Institute in Moscow. The diaries and correspondence of the tsar and his wife have been in the public domain since the Twenties, and Radzinsky quotes from them more extensively than is justified by their intrinsic interest. Assiduous ferreting in various state and party archives has uncovered much important new detail about the murders, mainly in the form of autobiographical fragments by those who carried them out, but the claims that his publisher makes for the book — that he has resolved the fate of Anastasia, for example — are exaggerated.

When these findings first appeared in the magazine *Ogonyok* three years ago they created a considerable stir, and Radzinsky was bombarded by letters and telephone calls from all over the Soviet Union offering further evidence in the form of person-

al recollections and accounts handed down within families. Intriguing though some of this new material is — some of it suggests that the tsarevich may have survived — it does little to help us over the gulch that yawns between conjecture and fact.

The new climate created by the collapse of Communism and the opening of the Soviet archives make it possible for Nicholas to be brought under more balanced biographical scrutiny. His view of the revolutionary activity directed at his overthrow was objective to the point of being bizarre. When his Interior Minister, Sipyagin, was assassinated, he wrote in his diary: "We must endure the trials the Lord sends us for our good with humility and steadfastness." This belief that only the Almighty could determine the fate of men and nations was an unorthodox defence against the ruthless terrorism of the Social Revolutionaries.

In the tabloid mind, Nicholas merely bowed to the wishes of a hysterical wife and the promptings of the sinister and lecherous Rasputin. That is a crude caricature imposed by the hard — and lucky — men who overthrew him ("nails should be made from those people," wrote Myshakovsky. "They'd be the strongest in the world").

Radzinsky quotes another view of Nicholas — the judgement of a politician and historian who believed that Imperial Russia's ship "went down in sight of port" at a moment when very little stood between her and the fruits of general victory. "In spite of errors vast and terrible, the regime he personified, over which he presided, to which his personal character gave the final spark, had at this moment won the war for Russia."

The words are from Winston Churchill's *The World Crisis*. Seventy years on, a revisionist biographer could find many a worse epitaph. ■



Muscovites commemorating the last Tsar

By Mohsin Alam

DUBAI — With its international image on the mend, South Africa has stepped up a concerted government and corporate drive for increased business with the Arab states in the Gulf.

A trade exhibition being held in Dubai will be the first such Middle Eastern event with South African participation, highlighting the country's current exploration of the rich prospects offered by regional markets.

South African interest in the show, now taking place at the Dubai World Trade Center, has been so strong that its participation has had to be expanded. More than 100 companies will now be represented, many of them sharing stands, in A New Link: South Africa and the Gulf, a thematic trade event during the international show that originally had 64 firms committed to taking part.

Working at both government and private levels, South Africa has significantly increased its contacts with Gulf officials and businessmen in recent months. Informal visits have been exchanged and both sides have shown interest in exploring new avenues for trade and commerce.

The turning point in the Gulf-South African contacts came with the sweeping 'yes' vote in the March 17 referendum on reforms. Merchants in the traditional bazaars of Dubai seemed quite enthusiastic about President de Klerk's resounding victory. "The outcome should lead to an end to South Africa's isolation, which will mean restoration of trade and commerce. This will open up a new business opportunity for us here," said a trader in the old souq.

The Dubai traders' views reflected a general market sentiment, which could be taken as typical of the business communities in other Gulf states. Dubai, as the region's business entrepôt, is always ahead in forging commercial links with new markets in Asia and Africa.

A. S. Gani, director of the Johannesburg-based Islamic Business Chamber, said af-



South Africa: Promising business prospects

ter visiting Dubai that his team found immense scope for two-way business with the country. It found, for instance, that raw materials for garment and plastics industries were available at low prices in Dubai.

In fact, the businessmen's confidence is backed by strong public opinion in favor of a speedy resumption of trade with South

South Africa woos Arab traders

Africa. Welcoming the 'yes' vote, the Dubai-based Gulf daily *Khaleej Times* wrote recently that the people of South Africa have voted to come back into the mainstream. Its editor, Bikram Vohra (an Indian), who visited South Africa and met Nelson Mandela in mid-February, said in a front-page comment:

"Now, it would be churlish in the extreme to delay opening up global doors and if the markets of the free world truly want change to come out of the promise then it can only happen when South Africa's economy is revitalized. There is no point holding on to sanctions or asking for further assurances. The power-sharing process will go that much better for blacks and whites and colored and Indians if the world doesn't renege on its part of the bargain."

Many in the marketplace share this conviction. Actually, even before the international community decided to end the economic boycott of South Africa, a senior Pretoria official, John Sunde, visited Dubai to explore ways of gaining a foothold in the Gulf market in preparation for the day when the embargo

would go and trade with the world would become a possibility.

Why Dubai? In the aftermath of the war, Dubai has become all the more popular as a staging post for regional business. In a view echoed by Sunde, Dubai is best placed to be South Africa's first regional trade center because of its facility for re-exports within the Gulf, the South Asian subcontinent and other parts of Asia and Africa. Pretoria would like to re-export mainly textiles and small manufactured items through Dubai and export its own minerals and small manufactures.

Sunde said his mission primarily was to seek out new trading partners for South Africa. It was the first visit to the Gulf by a South African official with diplomatic and business objectives in the context of helping "South Africa resume a proper role in the international community."

Currently, of course, South Africa is barred from any trade with the Arab League's 21 members in accordance with United Nations resolutions, adopted in the early 1970s to put pressure on Pretoria to end racial discrimination.

The United States and the European Community last year decided to lift sanctions following President de Klerk's reforms. Trade has already resumed between South Africa and the US and Japan. The Commonwealth decision to scrap "people-to-people" curbs took the process further and recognized that Pretoria's reforms are irreversible.

In positioning itself to exploit the huge market in the Middle East and further afield, South Africa may have hit upon the perfect choice, for three factors strongly favor Dubai. The prices in the Dubai market place remain competitive, the range of products remains unrivalled in the region and Dubai offers excellent communications with the rest of the world. ■

Mohsin Alam is a writer and researcher based in Dubai

The French 'oui' and its aftermath

By Zafar Masud

PARIS — When President François Mitterrand of France announced last June that he had decided to call for a referendum on whether the French agreed to the ratification of the Maastricht treaty, opinion polls indicated a comfortable 'oui' of 63 per cent.

European unity is seriously considered an essentially French concept in high Parisian circles. Not surprisingly, one of its chief protagonists, the late French economist Jean Monnet, is often cast as a sort of Thomas Jefferson by those Euroenthusiasts who would like to see a United States of Europe materialize in little over a generation. Monnet after all was the one who presided over the original 1956 action committee for the United States of Europe.

On the other side of the spectrum, however, France is not short of Eurosceptics. One of them significantly said after Mitterrand announced the date (20 September) for the day: "Maastricht is an attempt on the Mediterranean culture; it should not be allowed to take away the flavour of olive oil and garlic from our lives."

In the event many of the older generation French responded to that paranoia and voted 'non'. This may sound strange to outsiders, but many of the French who voted against Maastricht remain convinced that the treaty will usher in a weird civilization, European perhaps but definitely not French, in which their traditional way of life will have no place. Ultra-rightwing politicians like the National Front's Jean-Marie Le Pen and Philippe de Villiers have capitalized on the phobia. The result of their campaign was evident

in the referendum's outcome and the wafer-thin (51 per cent) victory for the pro-Europeans.

Significantly, the nationwide split indicated by that result should not necessarily be delineated along the arguments in favor of and against the embarrassingly elusive European unity. The divisions have been sharp enough between the urban communities, who voted yes, and Maastricht's rural detractors.

The French Communist Party was apparently successful in convincing 60 per cent of working class voters to say 'yes' to the treaty, while the same percentage of agricultural entrepreneurs, piqued by the low prices imposed from Brussels and fearful of a greater regimentation under Maastricht's shadow, cast a negative vote in a massive bloc of central, southwestern and southeastern rural France.

Other ramifications of the referendum are only just beginning to be appreciated. One not so negligible spin-off yet to be brought into the picture is its impact on the Right. Coming so close to the legislative elections next March, the referendum has left in its wake, like a political version of the hurricane Andrew, a swathe of wrecked careers and obfuscated ideologies in a divided and breathless right wing.

For, while former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, head of the UDF (Union pour la Démocratie Française) and former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, head of RPR (Rassemblement Pour la République), vigorously campaigned for 'yes', their traditional allies such as Charles Pasqua and Philippe Séguin painted grim pictures of a Brave New World should Maastricht be allowed to proceed. What was even worse for the Right, in

the aftermath of the vote both Seguin and Pasqua indicated that they were encouraged by the 49 per cent 'no' votes, rather than being disheartened by the 51 per cent 'yes' verdict. "After September 20, France will never be the same again," said Seguin ominously soon after hearing the results.

One can almost see the smirk on President Mitterrand's face at the prospect of the Right still in disarray over the question of European unity at election time seven months after the referendum.

His own Socialist Party remains intact, despite the mildly alarming voice of dissent of his former lieutenant Jean-Pierre Chevènement, who resigned as defence minister during the Gulf War and who campaigned for a 'no' vote, and despite the pitiful scores for both the president and his party in successive opinion polls.

François Mitterrand has always been considered a skilful political chess player, though the suggestion that he took a deliberate risk in calling a referendum expressly to throw a spanner in the works of the opposition will have to be taken with a pinch of salt.

The fact is that the French 'oui', however hesitant, has saved the European Community. It has also brought to light a dramatic omission by the Eurocrats in Brussels, who have so far considered their remedies for Europe's ills too technical to be explained with clarity to the patient itself.

The Dances, by rejecting the Maastricht treaty, and the French by passing it, have let it be known that the European Commu-



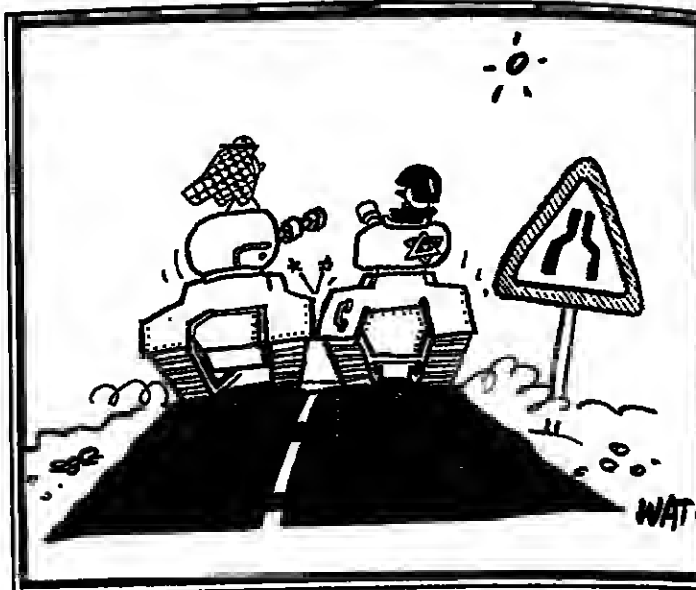
nity's survival will remain conditional for quite some time to come. The experience of the two member states has shown that the community's decision-making process will remain beholden to the preferences and perceptions of the people. So long as the community took care not to interfere with the traditional lifestyle and habits of people in the member states, it would be assured a clear sailing. Heaven forbid if the specter of arbitrary rule from above, from Brussels specifically, materialized for other Europeans, as it did for the many French who balked at it in September.

The Eurocrats might see in the French referendum a few salutary lessons before embarking on further decisions on a common currency, voting rights, taxation or agricultural policy. The disarray not being experienced defeats the very primary purpose of presenting to the outside world a secure and harmonious Europe. In doing so, it shakes non-Europeans' confidence in the emerging federal entity, with unforeseeable consequences for both. ■

Zafar Masud is the European Correspondent for *As-Sabeel* based in Paris.

Le Jourdain

Section française du Star



Cancer

La Jordanie entre en campagne

Une semaine contre le cancer a été lancée vendredi dernier. Toute une série d'actions, Téléthon compris, pour récolter 3 millions de JD!

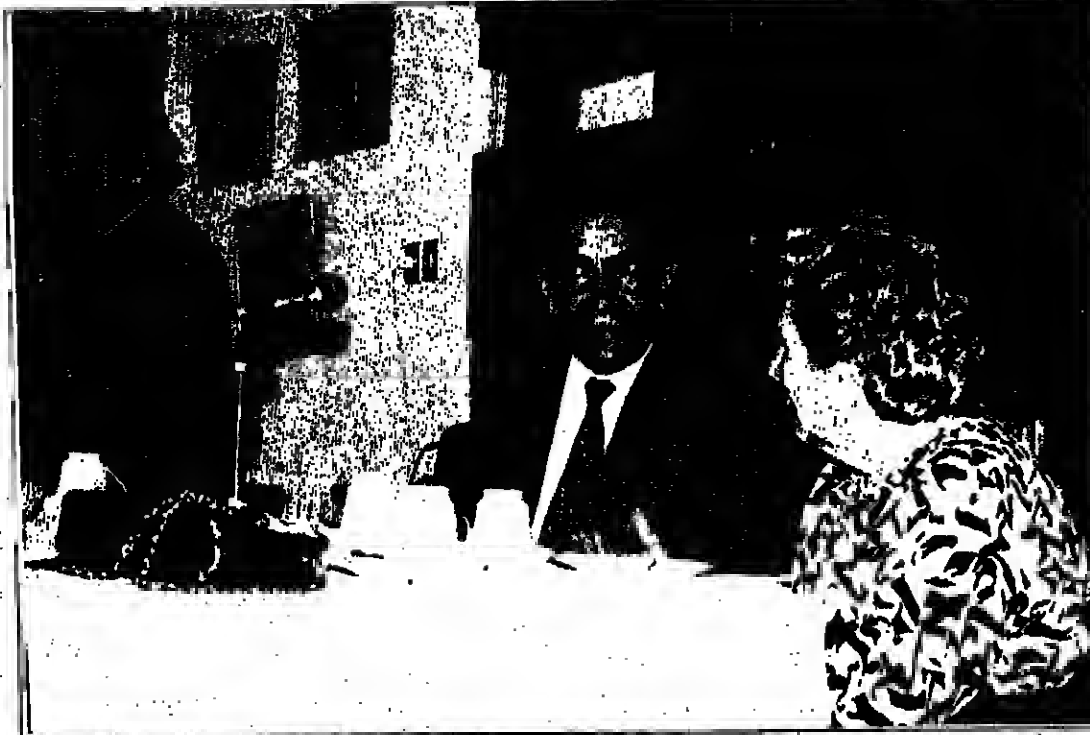
UNE CAMPAGNE contre le cancer est en cours en Jordanie depuis quelques jours. Annoncée il y a un peu plus d'un mois, elle est le fait d'un seul homme, le docteur Abdallah Al-Khatib, président de la "General Union of Voluntary Societies" (GUYS) et personnalité incontournable ces jours derniers. Présent sur tous les fronts, il veut que ses concitoyens affrontent sans peur cette terrible maladie.

L'homme blessé

YWCA, ce mardi, 10h30. Des centaines de femmes sont réunies pour un petit déjeuner. Mais pas n'importe lequel. Il s'agit en réalité d'une réunion de bienfaisance. Ces femmes, qui viennent toutes d'un milieu aisé, écoutent presque religieusement le discours, ou plutôt, le témoignage du docteur Abdallah Al-Khatib. Un homme, mais aussi une vie marquée par un drame. Al-Khatib se raconte, parle de sa fille, victime du cancer dès l'âge de 13 ans. Il évoque les hôpitaux, les soins, les souffrances d'une enfant particulièrement intelligente et brillante que le sort lui a enlevée. Il raconte sans fausse pudeur les problèmes financiers qu'il a dû endurer pour tenter de sauver sa fille qu'il a veillée jusqu'au crépuscule. Les soins coûteux, effectués aux États-Unis, il continue actuellement de les rembourser. Il dénonce la stupidité et le cruauté des lourdeurs administratives.

Devant lui, son auditoire, uniquement féminin, est très touché. Mais le docteur Abdallah Al-Khatib ne veut pas faire de sensiblerie. Il rêve de faire agir et réagir les Jordanais. Parce que cette maladie fauche des vies au hasard et que tous, jeunes et vieux, pauvres et riches, hommes et femmes, doivent se sentir concernés. A la fin de son intervention, les applaudissements éclatent. La compassion et la solidarité se lisent sur tous les visages. Message reçu.

Le but de cette campagne est de faire prendre conscience aux gens de ce qu'est le cancer, mais aussi de leur redonner confiance.



Abdallah Al-Khatib, sûr de gagner sa guerre contre le cancer

Le mot cancer ne rime pas forcément avec le mot mort, confie le docteur Abdallah Al-Khatib. Il est vrai qu'un cancer pris à temps peut être guéri. Mais il faut pour cela beaucoup d'argent, d'infrastructures et de personnels qualifiés. "La Jordanie a véritablement besoin d'un centre spécialisé sur le traitement du cancer dans tous ses aspects: la recherche, le dépistage précoce de la maladie et l'ensemble des soins nécessaires à la guérison des patients", explique-t-il. C'est ainsi que l'idée du Centre Amal a germé dans son esprit. Un centre national, mais complètement indépendant dans lequel tous les Jordanais sans distinction pourront se faire soigner.

Avec les conseils de quelques professionnels de la santé, le projet a fait son chemin. Des centres identiques aux États-Unis et en Europe ont été consultés. L'Hôpital de Nancy est l'un des partenaires privilégiés du Centre Amal. Des médecins français sont venus en Jordanie pour donner

leur avis sur les plans du Centre. Ils ont également informé les initiateurs du projet sur les aspects sociaux et psychologiques de la maladie, accepté de recevoir des médecins et des infirmières locaux pour leur faire profiter de leur expérience en la matière.

Nouvelle campagne

La campagne actuelle est la deuxième du genre. Elle vise à récolter 3 millions de dinars jordaniens en une semaine. De nombreuses activités, comme le pèlerinage du YWCA, contribueront à réduire cette somme importante. Quelques animations principales constitueront les temps forts de cette campagne. Une opération porte-à-porte surnommée "Frappe à la porte" fait appel aux dons même les plus minimes. "Nous sommes trois millions dans ce pays. Si chacun d'entre nous donne un dinar, nous obtenons mathématiquement les trois millions visés", déclare le docteur Abdallah Al-Khatib. Cette seule

opération mobilise 22.000 étudiants. Vendredi est la journée clé de la campagne. Une marche de soutien permettra aux sportifs de participer à la cause, tout en pratiquant une activité physique. Pour les moins courageux, un Téléthon sera organisé toute la journée sur la première chaîne (en arabe) de la télévision jordannienne. De

A VOIR...

EXPO - Nadim, pelote et sculpteur irakien jusqu'au samedi 24 octobre au CCF. La peinture de Nadim est de celles qui nous rappellent que la vraie peinture est faite pour agir sur notre sensibilité, et qu'elle n'a pas pour objet de provoquer le plaisir mais l'émotion.

CINEMA - "Le mois du je" au CCF est un cycle consacré aux documentaires. Lundi 12 octobre, à 20h00, "Les cavaliers de Luneville" (1969) de J.C. Bringuier. Une ville de l'Est que traverse la grande route, une petite ville torride un peu éphémère, sans grand cachet particulier, sinon ce château historique...

Michèle Rieux

As'ad Abdul Rahman

"Les Etats-Unis doivent faire pression sur Israël"

Entre deux rounds du processus de paix, ce membre du Conseil National Palestinien (CNP) fait le point. Un an déjà pour un bilan plutôt négatif!

LE JOURDAIN: Après une année de discussions, quel bilan dressez-vous du processus de paix?

As'ad Abdul Rahman: Pour être honnête, je ne sais pas ce qui se passe exactement. Je présume que beaucoup de choses se discutent sous la table... Selon un membre de la délégation palestinienne, nous aurions trouvé un terrain d'entente avec Israël sur un certain nombre de points spécifiques. Par exemple, la libération de tous les prisonniers avant le début du prochain round des négociations... Il y a une médiation, qui se charge de lier la solution transitoire avec la solution définitive. Sur un autre plan, les Israéliens seraient prêts à se retirer complètement et à en finir avec les implantations dans la Bande de Gaza.

L.J: Le point le plus important dans cette année?

A.A.R: Si à part ces rencontres publiques, rien ne se passe, cela veut dire qu'aucun résultat véritablement sérieux n'a été obtenu... Mais j'ai le sentiment qu'il y a eu des accords substantiels...

L.J: Bilan négatif ou positif?

A.A.R: Jusqu'à maintenant, il est plutôt négatif... Du moins si on se limite aux apparences...

L.J: Le plan américain, qui prévoyait les premiers résultats au bout d'un an ne sera pas tenu. Pourquoi un tel retard?

A.A.R: Beaucoup diront que les délais sont dus au changement de gouvernement en Israël. D'autres soutiendront qu'ils doivent faire face à un certain nombre de problèmes. Mais si nous n'obtenons rien après le 21 octobre, cela voudra dire que les co-sponsors, spécialement les États-Unis, n'ont pas exercé de pression suffisante sur les parties. Les Américains doivent persuader les Israéliens d'appliquer les résolutions 242 et 338. Si les co-sponsors poussent dans ce sens, le processus de paix se poursuivra plus facilement.

Chaque partie a son propre cercle vicieux. Je n'essaie pas de trouver des justifications. Mais cela ne fait aucun doute: George Bush et des ennemis à cause des élections. Il est davantage absorbé par son propre avenir que par celui du processus de paix. Il est menacé de perdre sa place...

Si vous regardez Rabin lui-même, il doit faire montre d'un courage excessif en faveur de la paix. Car il y a beaucoup de résistance intérieure contre toute concession israélienne. Cela représente 45% de la classe politique, le Likoud, ses supporters... Mais si Rabin décide de devenir un autre De Gaulle ou un autre De Gaulle, il y parviendra. Pour cela, il a besoin d'encouragement, et



As'ad Abdul Rahman

celui-ci doit venir des États-Unis. Enfin, les Palestiniens ne peuvent plus faire de concession. Nous ne pouvons pas accepter que les Israéliens ne se retirent pas, que Jérusalem ne soit pas une ville arabe, qu'ils poursuivent leurs implantations... Si la délégation accepte cela, alors elle n'est plus une délégation. Alors les forces qui prônent le rejet vont grandir très rapidement. Nous ne sommes plus en position de manœuvre.

L.J: Sur Radio France Internationale, Roland Dumas, ministre des Affaires étrangères français, a annoncé l'acceptation par Israël de l'ONU et de l'Europe dans le processus. Quelle importance accordez-vous à cette déclaration?

A.A.R: Ils avaient un rôle d'observateurs, maintenant ils deviennent participants. Nous accueillons favorablement toute participation de la France, de l'Europe en général, des Nations Unies, simplement parce qu'ils sont plus proches du côté arabe et palestinien. Ils sont plus attachés aux résolutions des Nations Unies. Les Européens et les Nations Unies nous comprennent mieux que les Américains. Mais ils sont convaincus que le rôle qu'ils vont jouer, quel qu'il soit, sera un rôle mineur.

Le réel pouvoir est entre les mains des États-Unis. Si les USA veulent demander l'application des résolutions en question et si Israël refuse, peut-être vont-ils demander l'aide de l'Europe? L'objectif sera de convaincre Israël en décrétant des boycotts militaires, économiques, techniques... Cela aurait beaucoup

d'influence sur Israël. Mais les Européens ne le feront pas, tant que les Américains ne le leur demanderont pas. Si les Américains disent aux Israéliens, nous ne continuerons pas à vous aider tant que vous ne vous soumettez pas aux résolutions des Nations Unies, si les Européens font de même, Israël sera sur les genoux en 24 heures. Et ils devront en venir au moment de vérité et appliquer les résolutions des Nations Unies.

L.J: Vous prétendez que la vie de la région est entre les seules mains des Américains...

A.A.R: Je dirais que la plupart du monde est entre les mains des Américains et pas seulement la région. Que cela nous plaise ou non, c'est un fait politique...

L.J: La priorité est plus que jamais le dossier palestinien...

A.A.R: Cela a toujours été et cela va continuer. Pour la Syrie, c'est un problème de terre, 10 ou 15% de la terre syrienne. Mais nous, les Palestiniens, nous n'avons rien. Vous avez 6 millions de Palestiniens qui n'ont aucun contrôle sur un centimètre de leur propre sol. La Syrie peut vivre sans les hauteurs du Golan... La frustration, la colère, sera toujours liée au problème palestinien.

L.J: Que pensez-vous d'une éventuelle paix séparée entre un État arabe et Israël?

A.A.R: Si chaque partie devait avoir sa propre paix bilatérale avec Israël, ce serait un coup fatal pour le processus de paix. Je ne pense pas que les projets Israéliens en vue de diviser le camp arabe va réussir. Chaque État arabe, pris isolément est faible. Cette question d'un accord séparé entre la Syrie et Israël a été mentionnée en épluchant. Arafat a dit la semaine dernière avoir obtenu à Damas des garanties que la Syrie ne ferait pas ça. Quel est l'intérêt? Ce n'est pas la paix que le monde veut! Tout le monde sait que sans solution pour le problème palestinien, il n'y aura pas de paix. La Jordanie ne pourra pas s'engager dans une quelconque paix qui ne résoudrait pas la question palestinienne. Les Syriens seraient aussi

embarrassés que Sadat lorsqu'il a obtenu une paix séparée. D'autant qu'ils se sont toujours opposés à cet accord entre l'Égypte et Israël. Et même pour ce dernier exemple, il n'y a pas de paix. Si vous allez en Égypte, et vous lisez les rapports des différents ambassadeurs Israéliens, ils vous diront qu'il n'y a pas de paix. Avoir un drapeau sur un bâtiment du Caire, l'ambassade Israélienne, cela ne revient pas à la paix. Simplement parce que les Égyptiens, comme ils le disent, n'auront pas rétabli totalement leurs relations avec Israël, tant que toutes les résolutions des Nations Unies concernant le monde arabe ne seront pas appliquées.

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L.J: Avez-vous un plan pour sortir de l'impasse?

A.A.R: Je pense que le facteur clé numéro un est entre les mains des Américains. Les États-Unis et la communauté internationale devraient réellement pousser Israël dans la bonne direction. Je pense que cela va arriver, je l'espère, après la réélection de Bush ou d'un autre... Propos recueillis par Francis Mazoyer

L'EDITO

Manœuvres

YASSER ARAFAT a profité de son séjour à Amman pour mettre de l'ordre dans la maison palestinienne. Il a rencontré Georges Habache, chef du Front Populaire de Libération de la Palestine (FPLP). Lors de son passage à Damas, il devait s'entretenir avec Nayef Hawatmah, leader du FDLP (Front Démocratique de Libération de la Palestine).

Les deux lieutenants de Arafat sont manifestement mécontents, non seulement des résultats des négociations de paix, mais aussi de la participation pure et simple de la délégation palestinienne à ces "tractations".

Ces deux mouvements radicaux viennent gonfler les rangs des opposants à un Arafat qui a su tenir bien que mal s'accrocher et imposer la présence de l'OLP dans le processus de paix.

Satisfait de son succès diplomatique à l'étranger, Arafat est sérieusement préoccupé par cette vague de mécontentement intérieure, provoquée par les fêlures du gouvernement Roblin.

Comment monnayer un gain politique et garder le contrôle sur les territoires en ébullition? Une situation marquée par l'accentuation des attaques des armées palestiniennes à l'encontre de la soldatesque israélienne.

Au moment où Arafat bat toutes ses cartes sur la table des négociations, les Palestiniens de l'intérieur ne semblent pas convaincus de la fin de l'opération armée.

Ce dilemme de Arafat ne sera pas le premier. Ses rencontres avec le souverain hachémite et le président syrien pourraient redorer l'image du leader palestinien sur les deux scènes: Cisjordanie et Gaza d'un côté, et dans les chancelleries de l'autre.

Arafat ayant empoché l'appui d'Amman va tenter de dissiper les doutes autour d'une détermination syrienne de rafter un deal avec les Israéliens sur le Golan.

Se voir mis hors jeu en ce moment, même est le cauchemar du chef palestinien. Comment convaincre un Assad maître du Liban et aspirant à obtenir "une paix totale" avec Israël, à l'image des accords de Camp David? C'est une autre question qui ne cesse de tracasser le président de Palestine.

The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
10 to 16
October

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — America's Funniest Home Videos
9:00 — Perspective
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Feature Film, 'Tagga' Starring Daniel Travanti. A spy drama about an ex-Vietnam veteran who gets caught between the CIA and the KGB.

SUNDAY

8:30 — Coach
9:10 — Documentary, 'Fragile Earth. Mucking up the Med'. How governments react to and cope with the pollution of the Mediterranean.
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Midnight Caller

MONDAY

8:30 — The Powers that Be
9:10 — Gone to the Dogs
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — The Gravy Train

TUESDAY

8:30 — Empty Nest
9:30 — Tex
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — When the Lion Roars

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Saved by the Bell
9:00 — Wednesday Forum

9:30 — Cluedo
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Bangkok Hilton

THURSDAY

8:30 — Uncle Buck
9:10 — Civil Wars
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Movie of the Week, 'Babies', starring Lindsay Wagner and Mary Walker. The story of three landladies who want to have babies.

FRIDAY

8:30 — Too Close for Comfort
9:10 — The Good Guys
10:00 — News in English
10:20 — Antagonists

FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Au Clair de Lune
6:05 — Les Aventures du Bosco
6:40 — Operation Mozart

LUNDI

6:00 — Pif et Hercule. A cartoon series for children.
6:10 — Les Chevaliers du ciel
7:00 — News in French
7:15 — Magazine sportif

MARDI

6:00 — Les Aventures de Joe
6:06 — Michel Vaillant
6:30 — La Famille Ramdan
7:00 — News in French
7:15 — Azimuts ou Intertropique

MERCREDI

6:00 — Des Trains pas comme les autres. A documentary program.
7:00 — News in French
7:15 — Les Beaux Moments du Cirque

JEUDI

5:30 — Hemingway, op. 3. A series about the American writer.
7:00 — News in French
7:15 — French Varieties. A selection of French songs.

VENREDI

5:30 — Collection Cinema 16
7:00 — News in French
7:15 — Fusion. A documentary program.

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The Good Guys, Friday at 9:10

HOROSCOPE

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ARIES (21 March-19 April): Your problem all this week is your temper. Make it work for you; it's a source of great power.
TAURUS (20 April-20 May): The middle of the week should be best for you. Visit a kindred spirit over the weekend.
GEMINI (21 May-20 June): You'll have fun all week, although some days are better than others. Make a major change.
CANCER (21 June-22 July): Distractions could take up most of your time. Everybody is going to be in the mood to talk.
LEO (23 July-22 August): The first and the last of this week are the best for you. Gather your thoughts and sell them.
VIRGO (23 August-22 October): A change could throw you for a loop. You'll get back in control. Avoid egomaniacs around dinner-time.
LIBRA (23 September-22 October): A brilliant mind is out there, just waiting to bump into yours. If you don't know where to look, try the library.
SCORPIO (23 October-21 November): The walls will have ears, so match what you say! You'll get a lucky surprise, and might get an unlucky one.
SAGITTARIUS (22 November-21 December): Love beckons this week. Be on the look-out for who's as hard to pin down as you are!
CAPRICORN (22 December-19 January): Do lots of business to make up for the time you lose early in the week. The weekend will be good for bookkeeping.
AQUARIUS (20 January-18 February): Things are starting to speed up for you. Those months of study are going to turn into public acknowledgement!
PISCES (19 February-20 March): Confusion could be the rule rather than the exception. Focus on one bright light, a friend who always makes you feel better.

Dining Out

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AROUND TOWN

PEOPLE

Congratulations!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.



● Top of the line Jordanian fashion house, Jezzazi, held its second fashion show this year on Wednesday 30 September at Philadelphia Hotel. The show focused on this year's autumn and winter sport and semi-formal fashion trends. Among the attractions were children's and teen-age clothing, but formal ladieswear had its share too. All outfits were exclusively designed by Jezzazi's designers. The show was attended by merchants and businessmen in addition to other invited guests. Jezzazi are planning to hold another show in the coming days for society ladies.

Austrian Airlines begins two weekly flights to Amman

● Austrian Airlines will start two flights per week via Larnaca to Vienna, the capital of Austria. Flights out of Amman will be operated Tuesday and Thursday. Return flights from Vienna start every Monday and Wednesday. Austrian Airlines serves from its hub, Vienna, 62 cities in 40 countries in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Far East and North America.



● A Turkish festival was launched on 1 October at InterContinental Jordan. The festival featured a Turkish folk music singer with six folk dancers and four musicians, a belly dancer, a handcraft exhibition, a fashion designer with six models to show off their latest creations, a choreographer and Turkish cooks.

Agenda

EXHIBITION:

● The Goethe Institute will be holding an exhibition, Sunday, 11 October, entitled 'Nightmare Car'. It shows how the dream of mobilization has become a nightmare whose ecological, social and economic effects have endangered our environment, caused illnesses, damaged countryside and roads. Even worse are road accidents, that have resulted in millions of deaths during the last thirty years. The exhibition will take place at the Orthodox Club in Abdoun.

● A seminar concerning 'The car and its effects on man and environment' will be held at the

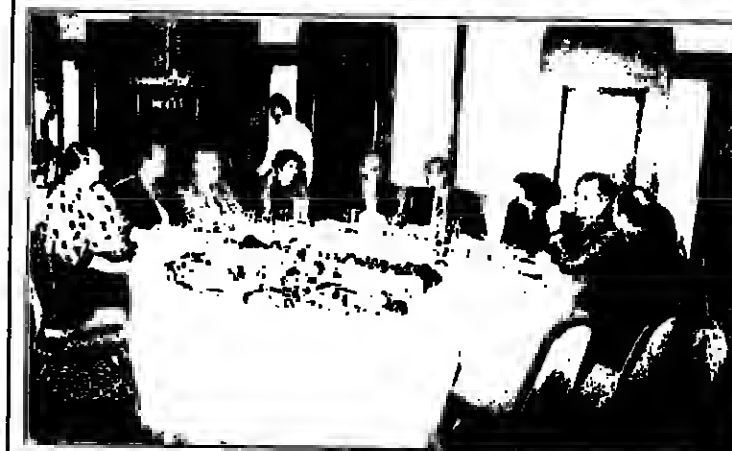
Goethe Institute, Sunday, 11 October. Papers will be presented by Dr Rouhi El-Sharif, Dr Turki Obeldat, Dr Nidal Qatamini and Engineer Lina Shabli. The seminar will take place at the Orthodox Club in Abdoun.

● In celebration of The Beatles, The British Council is holding a poster exhibition in remembrance of The Beatles. The exhibition charts the progress of the band through the Sixties. This marks the thirtieth anniversary of the release of The Beatles' first parlophone single, 'Love me do'. The Beatles are considered to be one of the most influential bands in modern music, they practically invented it with great releases such as their highly acclaimed 'Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band'. If success is to be measured in terms of commercial success, the Beatles are the greatest popular musicians of the century. The exhibition will be on display from Saturday, 10 October until Wednesday 21 October.

ber until Wednesday 21 October.

● The Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation is opening an arts exhibition of oils and water colors by Dr. George Sayegh, entitled 'Concepts in the Structure of Space'. The exhibition will be opened on Wednesday, October 7, at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation gallery, and will continue through October 31. The foundation opens Saturday through Wednesday, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and on Thursday from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.

● Under the patronage of H.E. the Ambassador of Spain, Mr. Juan Manuel Caprera, the Spanish Cultural Centre invites you to attend the opening of an art exhibition by Jordanian artist Khaleel Khrais. The exhibition will be opened on Wednesday, 14 October at the main hall of the centre. The exhibition will last until 29 October.



Alitalia honors its guests the Italian way



● Alitalia's director general in Jordan, Dr. Niveo Scamola, held a promotional gala dinner at the Marriott Hotel on 2 October. The event featured authentic Italian food cooked on the spot by the Italian chef Mr. Celeste Tonon. Among the many guests were R.J.'s CEO, Mr. Mahmoud Balqaz, and the general secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Mr. Nasr Atallah. The banquet was also attended by Italian ambassador to Jordan and Mrs. Romaldo Bettini. Mr. Bettini thanked Alitalia and the audience for their support and noted that Italian tourists rank first in terms of number of tourists visiting Jordan. He also announced that Alitalia was increasing the number of its weekly flights between Amman and Rome. Mr. Scamola also thanked the audience and said Alitalia will continue to serve the cause of Jordanian-Italian relations. Mr. Atallah thanked Alitalia for being the first airline to resume flights to Amman after the Gulf War.

Also present were German ambassador to Jordan Dr. H. Reihers and Father Michele Piccirillo, chief of the Franciscan archaeological mission in Mt. Nibo, airline and travel representatives, publishers, hotel managers and members of the Italian community in Jordan.

USAir takes center stage in New York city

● USAir will dramatically improve this fall when it moves its operations to a new terminal, providing its customers with the most pleasant experience in a New York City airport. The architect, William Bodouva and Associates, took into consideration the needs of both passengers and employees, and created a stunning, dramatically lit, contemporary and functional space. Furthermore, the USAir terminal is adjacent to the USAir shuttle terminal, which will make connections between USAir, USAir express, and the USAir shuttle very convenient. USAir offers the most convenient service to Florida, and the USAir shuttle provides on-the-hour service to Boston and Washington DC.

Long live the King

By Samer Kanan

With the name of God it's good to begin and hail to Jordan to include within
Long live the King
From the first that word should blow
the word that made us a single row
Long live the King
The word that all believed it and never could find another to fit
Long live the King
The word that even the blind can see
the initials of infants hence must be
Long live the King
The word of justice that all have heard
the word of honest and truthful word

Long live the King
Your people from farmers who make hay to teachers workers and soldiers say
Long live the King
You built your country and brought it up
and made yourself its safeguard cop
Long live the King
For forty years you toiled for freedom's sake
and never ceased faith that never did break
Long live the King
Oh, King of Arabs what should I say
But to your health I must truly pray
Though neither a man could never reach your grace
nor could he reach your reverent race
Long live the King

THE FAR SIDE By GARY LARSON

